

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-24 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claim 16 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20 and 24 are amended. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,411

Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

WPB:TJP/kaf

Attachments:
Appendix
Abstract

Date: January 22, 2002

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--